

# The poor man, the Merchant, and the King;

OR,

## The King's brother, his wife Sentence for the poor Man.

To the Tune of King and poor northern Man.

**I** was my chance as I did walk  
a histoꝝ foꝝ to read,  
Solomon wise, when he reig'd k'ing,  
did many a woꝝthy deed

Many a Statute he caus'd to be made,  
and this was one amongst them all,  
It's treason foꝝ a man to find out a man's loss;  
and not to refoꝝe it to the right owner again.

As it chanced there was a rich Merchant,  
as he was riding to the market town;  
It was his foꝝtune to lose his purse,  
and in it there was an hundred pound.

Proclamation he caus'd to be made  
if any man could find it plain,  
Refoꝝe to him without any doubt,  
and they shoꝝld have twenty pound foꝝ their pain.

As it chanced there were a filly poꝝr man  
with two sheepskins on his back to sell,  
It was his foꝝtune to find this purse  
and he took it up and he us'd it well.

When he had took it up into his hand  
he needs must see what in it he wou'd,  
The sum of money he coult not undeꝝtand,  
because there was in it but gold.

Thou hogson villain then said the Merchant  
I think it is thou that hast found my purse,  
Why wilt thou not refoꝝe it to me again,  
which if thou do not thou shalt fare the woꝝse

My liege quoth he I found such a purse,  
and gladly to you I'll make it known,  
You may have it again it is never the woꝝse,  
pay me foꝝ the finding and that's my own.

Let me see what's in it then said the Merchant  
he found an hundred pound and no moꝝe,  
Thou hogson villain thou hast paid thy self  
foꝝ in my purse there was full fifty score.

But before the King thou shalt be brought,  
I warrant you when I come before our King,  
He will not reward me of withnought  
as you your self thought to have done.

As they were leaving him towards the King,  
and as they were going on the way,  
There they did meet with a gallant knight  
and with him was his lady gay.

With bugging and tugging this filly poꝝr man  
his lady's shins they began to crack,

The gelding was wamou and leaped for,  
and cast the fair lady quite on her back.

The lady fell down and got a great blow,  
no pain at all the poꝝr man did mean,  
The lady did light upon the ground,  
and a sub barb stuck out one of her eye.

The knight would needs upon him have been,  
now say quoth the Merchant that is a wozang,  
I have an action already against him  
to go to the King and he is sure to hang.

As they were leading him towards the King,  
the poꝝr man he lik'd not of being too double,  
But at a sea cliff he had thought to have leapt,  
as to have saved both himself and them trouble.

As he was leaping at the sea cliff  
thinking no harm at all, God wot,  
He met two fishers bound to sea  
and the leap broke one of their necks in the boat.

The other would needs upon him have been,  
now say quoth the Merchant that is a wozang,  
We have two actions already against him  
and to go to the King he is sure to be hang'd.

As they were leading him towards the King,  
and as they went to the gallery gap,  
There is such a villain then said the Merchant,  
as came not before you this many a day.

It was my chance to lose my purse,  
and in it was the punds full fifty score,  
The villain will not give me an hundred again  
unless I would give twenty moꝝe.

I have woꝝse and that then said the knight,  
I know not what the villain did me,  
He caus'd my gelding to fling my lady  
and a sub barb stuck out one of her eye.

I have woꝝse and that then said the fisher,  
I may sigh and say alas God wot,  
He met with me & my brother was bound to the sea  
and the leap broke my brother's neck in the boat.

Solomon wise he turn'd him about  
he was not abashed in ebery thing,  
Never such three actions came before me  
never since I was crowned King.

Marquis his brother he was there,  
I pray you good brother these three you do fear,  
I pray you good brother turn them over to me  
and their causes I soon will clear.

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## The second Part to the same Tune.

With all my heart said Solomon the wise,  
You may be the judgement of them yet,  
We turn'd them over to Marquis his brother,  
Who fainer of them I would have them be quit.

Marquis heard their judgements all,  
And every one set up his will,  
Come hither poor man, come hither to me,  
And let me hear what thou canst say for thy self.

My Liege quoth the poor man then touching this,  
As I was bound to the market town, (matter  
It was my fortune to find this purse  
and in it there was an hundred pound.

A proclamation he caus'd to be made  
if any man could find it again,  
Bestow it to him without any doubt  
e they should have twenty pounds for their pains.

Where is the business said the Marquis?  
I pray you let us hear him soon:  
Here is the Merchant's own man,  
and carries the message from town to town.

The Merchant's man then he was call'd,  
he swore there was an hundred pounds no more;  
And how his Master profer'd twenty pound,  
to any that would to him his purse restore.

Saith Marquis this shall be my judgement straight,  
yea, and perhaps you will think it strange,  
Thou shalt follow him in the heels every day,  
untill thou do find such a bill of Exchange.

And then keep it to thy self e never gibe't him again,  
now God forbid e'en quoth the Merchant,  
How should I find a hundred pound of this  
that never had a hundred greats to lose.

I had rather gibe him twenty more,  
if so betwixt you would let me stay,  
Pay down the money then quoth the Marquis,  
so mayst thou quietly go thy way.

How poor man how hindrest thou this Knight?  
thou must needs make him amends I win,  
This is against all Laws and Rights,  
the Lady Looke the one of her eyes.

Hast thou not a wife at home with two eyes plain,  
yes my Liege a honest poor woman,  
And for her living doth rake great pains,  
as any one doth in all the town,

This shall be my judgement straight,  
yea and perhaps you will think it strange;  
The wife with two eyes and the Lady with one  
and as thou hast dyed her then shalt exchange.

Now God forbid then quoth the Knight  
that ever so bad should be my choice,  
I had rather gibe him an hundred pound,  
then to be troubled with his damns wife.

Pay down thy money then quoth the Marquis,  
so mayst thou be going within a while,  
The Fisher for fear he should be call'd,  
he was run away halfe a quarter of a mile;

Was not there a third man then said the Marquis?  
I pray let us hear what he can say?  
My Liege quoth they he was here eben now,  
but as fast as he can he is run away.

I pray let him be called back again,  
if so betwixt he be in the sight;  
It's never be said you came before me,  
but every man shall have his right.

How Fisher what made thee to run away?  
my Liege quoth he I had a great way home;  
And I thought it was time to pack away,  
having spent the most of my coyne.

Saith this shall be thy judgement straight,  
yea and perhaps you will think it strange;  
Thou shalt set thy beat in the same stead,  
and thou shalt leap at him by way of Exchange.

So mayst thou quit thy brothers death,  
now God forbid then quoth the Fisher;  
That ever so bad should be my chance,  
I shall either be dyed or it will cause me wound

I had rather gibe him twenty pounds,  
I am sorry my Liege that I came hither:  
Pay down thy money then quoth the Marquis,  
so may you be packing all fools together.

These three they could not well agree,  
but each fell out with one another;  
They said they would never come before our King,  
as long as he was in company of Marquis's bro-  
(ther.

The poor man he was well content,  
and well pleased in every thing;  
He said he car'd not how oft he came  
before the Majesty of our King.

FINIS.

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